

# *Saint* **AMBROSE**

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

**ROOTED IN CHRIST**

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**MASS TIMES: SATURDAY 4PM, SUNDAY 9AM & 11AM, MONDAY-THURSDAY 12:10PM**

MAGI FROM THE EAST

“—

**WHERE IS  
THE NEWBORN  
KING OF  
THE JEWS?**



**THE EPIPHANY**

Today is the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord and its implications are wide. If we think of this day merely as a commemoration of the Three Wisemen visiting Jesus, we can miss the seismic shift that occurred in the early Church that makes this day so important.

The first great controversy in the Church involved a crisis and that crisis was that non-Jewish (or "Gentile") followers of Jesus were trying to join the Church. They had been attracted to Jesus' teaching, they had been receiving the Holy Spirit, and this seemed to fly in the face of the rules as many Jewish followers of Jesus understood them.

The initial followers of Jesus were Jewish and they did not cease to be so once they became a community of faith gathered in his name. At a minimum, every faithful Jewish person keeps the laws of the Torah which are contained in the first 5 books of the Bible (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy). These laws governed most every aspect of life. Some of these laws you may be familiar with like the kosher laws, those laws that prohibited a Jewish person from eating certain foods like pork or shellfish. They are considered unclean and they would make you unclean too. If you're reading this, chances are you don't keep those laws and follow these prohibitions. The question is why. If they are in the Bible, why are there some laws we follow and others we do not? Other laws we seem to break involve taboos regarding the biblical definition of purity or the sacrifice of animals to worship God and to expiate sin. Others we follow like those involving marital relations or the Ten Commandments. But to read through the first five books of the Bible is to encounter many things that we don't seem to follow.

A wrong conclusion would be to assume that the Church simply had to get with the times and that the abandonment of these Laws was a matter of utility. The emergence of the Gentile followers of Jesus was a reckoning for the early Church. Did they need to accept the whole of Jewish Law (some 613 laws apart from the necessary commentary) or were there some things that were more essential than others?

This is a big deal for us because most of us do not have a Jewish background and, with regard to the covenants God made with Israel, we were outsiders. One could become a proselyte convert to Judaism and accept the entirety of the Law but not many took that option. Remember that it is from our Jewish roots that we learn that there is only one God and whether or not one was in a right relationship to that God would matter tremendously if you found truth in that claim.

The Council of Jerusalem was convened around 50 C.E. in the early Church to determine what should be done. They "*reached the decision that we should not trouble those Gentiles who are turning to God, but we should write to them to abstain only from things polluted by idols and from fornication and from whatever has been strangled from blood*" (Acts 4:19-20). In other words, the moral law of Moses still stood while the ritual laws would not be imposed. This is not to relativize those other laws but to understand them as being essential to Jewish identity but not to the wider scope of the followers of Jesus.

In our readings we see that this move to include the people of other nations was foretold by the prophets. Of Israel it is said that "*nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance*" (Isaiah 60:3). In time, the nations would follow the God of Israel. This might not seem so remarkable on this side of history but in the time of the prophets and the time of Jesus, Judaism was the expression of a small ethnic minority in the sweep of empires. If you were playing the odds of history, it would seem that we'd be following the gods of the Greeks or Romans or any other group more prominent than Israel. But that's not how things worked out. We follow in the footsteps of Israel and honor the one God who revealed himself to them. He is everybody's God and in the Church he has made it possible for all people to walk in his ways.

The three Wisemen from our Gospel reading exemplify this ingathering of the nations to honor God in his son Jesus. The Magi (in Greek *magoi* from the Persian *magus*, which could refer to the high priestly caste of Persia, astrologers, or even magicians) followed a star, not knowing where it would lead them. Based on their beliefs, they knew that the star foretold the coming of the "*newborn king of the Jews*" (Matthew 2:2). The wisemen can represent all of humanity stumbling in the darkness of our own ways without the full light of God's revelation. Like all who do not yet know God they are left only to follow the light they can see. Their traditions are beautiful but incomplete and represent the search for truth seeking to be fulfilled by the light of Christ. Historically, this was where we were as a people before we found Jesus, or to be more specific, before he found us.

God is therefore revealed as everyone's God and we celebrate that God finds a way for all to be included. That is the epiphany and it's a reason to rejoice. All people can gather around the manger and claim Jesus as their own and, in doing so, accept the gifts of salvation and redemption that come from him.

-Tom Acemoglu



JANUARY 7, 2024

## Fearfully & Wonderfully Made

Sundays from  
9:50a - 10:50a  
in the Chapel  
(Dec 10 & 17, Jan 7 & 14 )

WANT TO STAY UP TO DATE ON ADULT LEARNING  
OPPORTUNITIES? Contact Tom at  
thomas.acemoglu@rcda.org or join at  
<https://stambroselatham.flocknote.com/AdultFaithFormat/>

## FRIENDS

## IN FAITH

Friends In Faith Book Club is thrilled to unveil our upcoming schedule! Join us for our next book club meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, January 16th, at 6 pm in the Parish Center. On this occasion, we will delve into the enchanting worlds of "Joy to the World" by Scott Hahn and "Manchester Christmas" by John Gray. Copies of these books are available at local libraries in both hardcopy and Kindle formats. Looking ahead to Tuesday, February 20, 2024, we anticipate an engaging discussion on "Champions of the Rosary" by Father Don Calloway. For more details or to become a part of our book club, please don't hesitate to contact Aaron and Jennifer Pfoztzer at [Jennifer.pfoztzer@gmail.com](mailto:Jennifer.pfoztzer@gmail.com) or 518-573-6673. Save the dates and be part of our literary journey!

## DID YOU KNOW?

A new monastery is being built at the Shrine of the Divine Mercy, Stockbridge MA. To learn more about the project and see how you can help, call 413-298-3931.

St. Ambrose, Latham, New York

## OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday 9:00am-4:00pm  
Sunday Before & After the Masses  
in the Parish Center Lobby.

## KEEP IN TOUCH

Website: [stambroselatham.com](http://stambroselatham.com)  
Facebook: @stambrosechurch  
Email: [salatham@rcda.org](mailto:salatham@rcda.org)  
YouTube: [youtube.com/c/StAmbroseMedia](https://youtube.com/c/StAmbroseMedia)

*Are you receiving text and email notifications from St. Ambrose? Text the word **ambrose** to 84576 to opt in.*

**If you would like Holy Water, the basin in the vestibule at the front of the church has some. Please just bring your own vessel.**



## Mom's Group



Join us the first Sunday of each month from 9:50AM -10:50AM  
in room 307

Next Meeting: February 4th

Contact Darlene at 518-496-1886  
for more information.





*Mary's Circle of Love*

We meet the 3rd Thursday of each month from 10:00am-11:30am at the Northern Pass Apartment and Condo Community, 62 Santanoni Dr, Cohoes. Our mission is to grow spiritually by sharing our faith stories. We pray, laugh, and share food as we journey with each other. Please reach out to Mary Kay (518-366-9741) or Marion (518-785-1992) for details.



**Reconciliation**  
**Wednesdays 5-6 PM**  
**Saturdays 2:30-3:30 PM**

**FRIENDS** **IN FAITH**

Would you like an opportunity to become better acquainted with fellow parishioners? What about giving back to our parish family by planning future events for parishioners of all ages? Friends in Faith will meet to gather your ideas for future social and hospitality events.

FRIENDS IN FAITH meetings are scheduled every Tuesday, and are held in the parish center.

Call Mary Kay for more information (518-366-9741)



**SNOW REMOVAL ASSISTANCE**

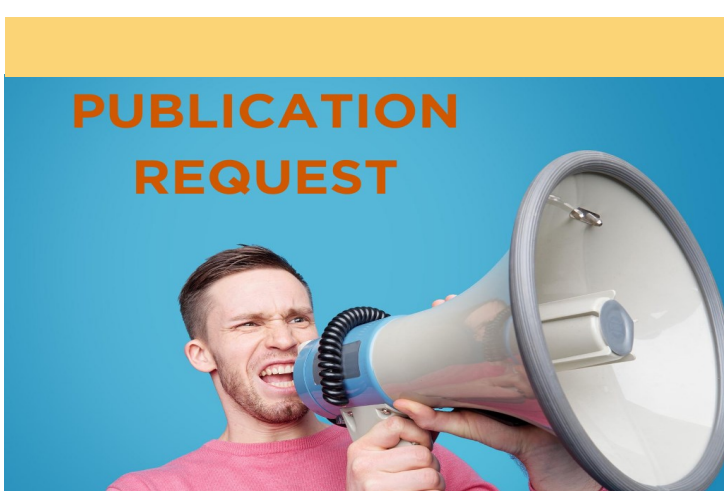
DO YOU ENJOY RUNNING A SNOWBLOWER AND REMOVING SNOW?

JOIN OUR BUILDING AND GROUNDS MINISTRY AND HELP US KEEP OUR CHURCH READY FOR WORSHIP ON THE WEEKENDS!

PLEASE CONTACT TOM HEALY AT [THEALY969@NYCAP.RR.COM](mailto:THEALY969@NYCAP.RR.COM), OR CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE: 518-785-1351

**ALATEEN MEETINGS**

Alateen is for young people whose lives have been affected by someone's drinking. The teens learn that they are not alone and discover ways of coping with their situation. The healing begins by meeting and sharing with other young people. Meetings are held weekly, on Sunday, at St. Edward the Confessor, 569 Clifton Park Center Rd, Clifton Park at 4pm. Any questions can be directed to: [cmc.afg.123@gmail.com](mailto:cmc.afg.123@gmail.com)



**PUBLICATION REQUEST**

Do you have an event you want us to advertise, or an announcement you want us to share? We can help you get the word out through multiple platforms! Go to [stambroselatham.com](http://stambroselatham.com) and click on the button of the guy with the megaphone in the middle of the page. Then fill out a short form, and we do the rest.

## MUSIC IN THE CHURCH BY BILL HAYES

### Psalm 72 & We Three Kings

On this Solemnity of the Epiphany, the designated psalm for this weekend is Psalm 72 (vs. 1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13) which is a royal psalm. The psalmist is asking for a blessing for the new king, who is to be a defender of the poor (vs. 4, 12-14) and prays that he has dominion over all the nations. (vs. 8-11).

John Hopkins Jr. (1820-1891), who wrote "We Three Kings", served as rector of Trinity Church in Plattsburgh, New York from 1872 to 1876 as well as Christ Episcopal Church from 1876 to 1887. He was the rector of Christ Episcopal Church in Williamsport, PA when he wrote the lyrics and melody for "We Three Kings" for a Christmas pageant. He also delivered the eulogy at the funeral of President Ulysses S Grant in 1885, and died in Hudson, New York. He was buried next to his father at Bishop's House, Rock Point, Burlington, Vermont. Hopkins' nephew, Charles Filkins Sweet, wrote a biography of his uncle entitled *A Champion of the Cross, Being the Life of John Henry Hopkins, S.T.D.*

I have set this psalm with alternative lyrics to fit the melody of "We Three Kings".

**Ps. 72 Lord The Nations Of The Earth** Melody: John Hopkins, Jr. 1857  
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 (Sung to the tune of "We Three Kings" with adapted psalm lyrics)

**Refrain**

Lord, the na - tions of the earth, will a - dore and wor - ship you. **Fine**

**Verses**

1. With your judge - ment, praise the King. With your jus - tice, praise the Son.  
 2. Jus - tice flow - ers all the days. Ho - ly peace will co - ver the land.  
 3. Kings of Tar - shish of their gifts. Se - ba bring him their praise.  
 4. He shall res - cue all of the poor, when no one gives help to the poor.

17

1. He shall gov - ern all your pro - ple  
 2. May he rule from the sea to the sea  
 3. All the kings will pay him homage  
 4. He shall help the poor and lowly

21

1. jus - tice shall rule all the land.  
 2. to - ends of the earth.  
 3. na - tions will serve him well.  
 4. Lives of the poor he shall save. **D.C. al Fine**

### KIERAN'S LIGHT

CATHOLIC LGBTQIA+  
MINISTRY

CONTACT FOR DETAILS:  
[robyn.spateholts@rcda.org](mailto:robyn.spateholts@rcda.org)

Kieran's Light is a ministry rooted in love, welcome, and respect for the LGBTQIA+ community, their family, friends, and loved ones. Jesus calls us to love our neighbor as ourselves and it is in that spirit that this ministry is founded.



Join Mary's Circle  
of Love in  
praying the Rosary!

Mondays after  
12:10p Daily Mass  
in the Chapel.





JANUARY 7, 2024

FR. BRIAN KELLY, PASTOR

## MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, January 6th — 4pm**

**Fr. Kelly**

Rozanne Fusci  
Aaron March  
Intentions of Schipano Family  
Melissa A. Alvarado Nieves  
Mary Ryan

**Sunday, January 7th — 9am**

**Fr. Kelly**

James J. Pender  
Sam Aliberti  
Helen Richmond  
John Clementi  
Donald Lebentritt

**Sunday, January 7th — 11am**

**Fr. Kelly**

Pearl Elizabeth Armas  
Leonard Macapagal  
John Ashley  
Francis James Giuliano  
Jessie Brady

**Monday, January 8th — 12:10pm**

**Fr. Kelly**

The Grenchus Family

**Tuesday, January 9th — 12:10pm**

**Fr. Kelly**

Marie Travison  
Mary Mardiello

**Wednesday, January 10th — 12:10pm**

**Fr. Kelly**

Nora Esposito  
Frances M. Spsychalski

**Thursday, January 11th — 12:10pm**

**Fr. Kelly**

Norman Rosenthal

## WHO'S PRESIDING NEXT WEEKEND?

**Saturday, January 13th — 4pm**

**Fr. Kelly**

**Sunday, January 14th — 9am**

**Fr. Kelly**

**Sunday, January 14th — 11am**

**Fr. Kelly**

## OFFERTORY

Current Year

Previous Year

12/24/2023:

12/25/2022:

\$29,748.01

\$24,349.76



ONLINE GIVING

Always forgetting  
your envelopes?  
Switch to online giving:  
[stambroselatham.com/egiving](http://stambroselatham.com/egiving)



**The Latham-Colonie Columbiette Buffet Breakfast**  
**Sunday, January 14th, 2024**

**8:30 am to 11:30 am**

**328 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, N.Y. 12110**

Menu includes: Scrambled Eggs, an Omelet Station, Home Fries, Corned Beef Hash, Bacon and Sausage, Pancakes and French Toast served w/Warm syrup, A Variety of Cereals and Juices, Bananas and Hot Tea, Coffee or Hot Chocolate.

Adults - \$12

Children (5-10) - \$6

Under 5 - Free!

## HAILEY'S CORNER



What did the 3  
kings say when  
they finally  
came upon the  
Holy Family in  
the manger?

Mind if we  
Creche this  
party?